



Bethany Free Lutheran Church
451 34th St.
Astoria, OR 97103

What does True Greatness Look Like?

What does greatness look like to you? When I was a kid I used to think the greatest baseball player ever was Lou Gehrig. While Gehrig played well before my time, he was someone that I idolized as the best player ever due in large part to how he was portrayed in the classic movie, *Pride of the Yankees*. Perhaps if we put him up against other players he would pale in comparison, yet his character and toughness was something that really drew me towards this man, that made me think he was great.

In real life if I had to point to someone that was great, I might have thought of my old Boy Scout Master, Ed Haunn. Mr. Haunn was larger than life. He was a big heavy guy that drove a big truck, who was soft spoken, and cared about kids, especially young boys. I grew to love going to his house with other guys to plan our camp menus and talk about what our summer camp would be like. He would often take us leaders out to a special restaurant before summer camp and get burgers bigger than any normal burger known to man which made us feel honored. He was someone that I thought was great.

Well the disciples in Jesus day also struggled to understand greatness. In Luke 22:24-27 we see a teaching of Jesus on this subject: A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves. (ESV)

The point that Jesus was trying to

make was that how most people in the world see greatness verses how God sees greatness are often completely opposite. Greatness to God is not being an athletically gifted quarterback that is able to win the Superbowl, or a fabulously pretty woman that gets paid to smile at a camera. Greatness to God is a man who works at a nursing home who carefully and lovingly changes an adult diaper of an old man. While many might be rough with the man and make fun of his condition, the nurse's aid silently and lovingly helps. Greatness to God is a haggard mother who might be a combination of sleep deprived, hungry, and upset who gently and carefully cares for her 16 year old daughter who is sick from being at a party from drinking and now is paying the price. The mother can see the shame in her daughter and instead of chastising her, she provides care and support knowing that when the time is right, she will talk with her daughter.

The main point that Jesus was trying to make is that if we struggle to want to be great, if we yearn to do big things for God's kingdom, we first need to focus on serving others. We first must learn to place other's needs ahead of ours. We need to follow the example of Jesus who took care of other's needs often before His own. We all know the story of Jesus washing the disciple's feet. Jesus demonstrated true greatness. He demonstrated what we ought to do.

If you ever find yourself thinking about greatness, think back to what Jesus said and did. For while a quarterback, supermodel, or a successful tycoon may be great in the world's eyes because of their earthly achievements, those achievements pale in comparison in God's eyes to those that learn to place other's needs above their own. Regardless of your standing in the world's eyes, seek to be great in the Lord's eyes. In whatever position in life you find yourself, be great by serving others.

Pastor Rich Carr

Worship With Us

8:45 A.M. Glad Tidings Radio 1370 A.M.

9:30 A.M. Sunday School

11:00 A.M. Worship Services

Live Stream

We live stream our 11:00 A.M. Sunday worship services on Subsplash. If you prefer Facebook we are still there. Sunday sermons are also posted the same day on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@bethanyfreelutheranastoria3012/featured>. You can find links to all of these on our website at www.bethanyfree.com



SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30am-10:30am

Kindergarten- Adults

Learning God's Word



Men's Prayer Breakfast

The men's prayer breakfast is February 1st, 8:00am. Cooking starts at around 7:15am, if you would like to help. We would love to have more men join us.

Deacons & Trustees Meeting

They will meet here at church, Wednesday, February 5th, 5:30pm.

Bethany Sewing Ministry

The ladies of Bethany will meet February 6, 20 & 27 this month, Thursday mornings at 10am, downstairs at Bethany. All sewing skills are welcome or if you want to bring you other hand work and just fellowship. A lunch is provided. We work on quilts that are mostly sent to AFLC Alaska Missions in Naknek, AK

They are always more than glad for any donations of fabric. Just drop by on one of the sewing days or contact the church and arrangements can be made.

Brown Bag Ministry

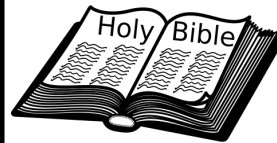


DAY AND TIME CHANGE

Every Wednesday, 11:00 am, we have our weekly Brown Bag Ministry which prepares brown bag lunches that are distributed in the community, we are always grateful for volunteers.

WMF Meeting

Women's Missionary Federation will meet, Thursday, February 13th, 11am at the church. All Ladies are Welcome, bring a lunch, dessert is provided.



Women's Evening Bible Study

WEBS meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Hosted by Brenda Carr at the parsonage. They will be meeting February 25.

Thank You to all that came and helped clean up and put away Christmas!



Thank You to all that have been signing up for altar flowers, readers, greeters and after church treats. If you would like to volunteer. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



We are gearing up for the 2025 FLY convention in Estes Park, Colorado that will be held June 30th-July 5th. We have 6 youth signed up to go this summer. Please keep them all in your prayers.

A movie night will be held Saturday, February 8th at 5:00pm at the church.

If you would like further information on either of these things contact the church.